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**Greater New York Hospital Association**

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Kenneth E. Raske, President

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May  
Five  
2005

The Honorable Bill Nelson  
716 Hart Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Nelson,

On behalf of the Greater New York Hospital Association, which represents over 250 hospitals and nursing homes throughout New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Rhode Island, I am writing to express our support for the *Advance Directives Improvement and Education Act of 2005* (S 347). This important legislation, sponsored by you and cosponsored by Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, gives individuals greater access to information about end-of-life health care options should they become unable to make decisions for themselves.

Advances in medical technology have improved healthcare dramatically over the past several decades, but access to this technology also presents patients and their families with complicated and medically complex questions, particularly at the end-of-life. In this environment, it is increasingly important for all Americans, especially seniors, to prepare advance directives to make end-of-life health care decisions. By taking these steps, patients – and their families and caregivers – will be better prepared to answer these difficult questions if and when they arise.

Our members are committed to ensuring that patients understand their options and ensure that their wishes are respected. Your legislation is an important step in this process.

Sincerely,

Kenneth E. Raske  
President